

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Multnomah Education Service District
11611 N.E. Ainsworth Circle
PO Box 301039
Portland, OR 97230-9039

Dear Parents:

It is our hope that your child will have a happy and healthy school experience.

Registered nurses (R.N.'s) and other MESD support staff will be assisting your child throughout the school year. The R.N. assigned to your child's school will be in the building an average of one day every week.

The R.N. will

- Assist students who have chronic health problems
- Plan and conduct health screenings (dental, vision, and hearing)
- Assist with communicable disease control
- Provide direct nursing care to students who become ill or injured at school

Oregon State Law regarding Immunization requirements for New Enterers - Pre-K and Kindergarten) are:

One dose of each vaccine required (age appropriate) at initial attendance or an appropriately signed medical or religious exemption:

- Diphtheria-tetanus containing vaccine
- Polio
- Measles, mumps, rubella (Measles, mumps and rubella date must be at or after 12 months of age)
- *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) (Hib is required only for students younger than 5 years)
- **Hepatitis A (Grades PK, K, 1, 2, 3, 4)**
- Hepatitis B
- Varicella or **chickenpox disease**

A state CERTIFICATE OF IMMUNIZATION STATUS FORM is attached and MUST be completed, signed and returned to school before your child enrolls. To claim a religious exemption, a parent must check the appropriate boxes and sign the back of the Certificate of Immunization Status. An exemption may be claimed for one or more vaccines or for all vaccines.

Children who have a well-balanced diet and get sufficient sleep and exercise generally have a better school experience. It is advisable to keep students at home when they are ill. This will speed recovery and prevent the spread of disease to others. Some general guidelines to use in deciding if you should send your child to school are as follows:

- No child with a TEMPERATURE OVER 100.5° should be sent to school. The child should remain at home until free of fever for 24 hours.
- Any child with a STOMACHACHE, DIARRHEA, or who CANNOT KEEP FOOD DOWN should be kept home.
- No child with a RASH should be sent to school. Consult your health care provider if rash persists or if there is a fever with rash.
- No child with colored drainage from eyes or ears should be at school. Contact your health care provider.
- Common COLD symptoms - cough, runny nose, SORE THROAT - are best treated by keeping the child home if he/she is uncomfortable or if the symptoms would interfere with classroom work. If these symptoms continue, call your health care provider.

If we can be of any help in making your child's school experience a healthy time, please do not hesitate to call and leave a message for a Health Services nurse at 503 257-1732.